

CURBSIDE CLEANUP

BE SURE YOU'RE PREPARED by setting your materials at the curb before 7 a.m. on your pickup day. To prevent people from stealing copper and releasing hazardous chemicals into the air, please do not set appliances on the curb until the morning of your collection day. Remember, trucks will go through only once.

QUESTIONS?

CALL 952-563-8750.

2009 CURBSIDE CLEANUP SCHEDULE

This year's cleanup will go from the west to the east.

| | |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|
| Saturday, April 18 | West boundary to Normandale |
| Saturday, April 25 | Normandale to France |
| Saturday, May 2 | France to Penn |
| Saturday, May 9 | Penn to Portland |
| Saturday, May 16 | Portland to East boundary |

NEW THIS YEAR!

On the Thursday before your pickup, Bridging will come through neighborhoods to collect useable items.

Earth Action Heroes protect the earth. Whether it's saving energy or guarding Bloomington's precious natural resources, these individuals are making a difference. Here are your neighbors in action ...



EARTH ACTION HERO BRIDGING'S FURNITURE BRIGADE



Ron Osterbauer put together a table.

IF BRIDGING HAD A MOTTO it would be, "Helping people improve their quality of life one chair at a time." Visit Bridging's 100,000 square-foot warehouse on West 87th Street and you'll see why. They have more chairs, dressers and tables in one warehouse than you're likely to see on a visit to any furniture outlet. Most of the furniture, roughly 60 percent, is donated by residents. The other 40 percent is donated by businesses. Bridging has six trucks serving its two locations in Bloomington and Roseville that are used to pick up donations.

Some furniture is even handmade by volunteers, such as the gentleman pictured below. In 2008, Bridging partnered with the Hennepin County Adult Correctional Facility to build chairs. It was a win/win situation. Prisoners learned valuable skills while building nearly 2,000 dining chairs for Bridging, at the cost of just \$5 per chair. Volunteers also built 1,800 dressers at a cost of just \$35 per piece.

In total, Bridging estimates that it recycles more than 100,000 items annually, equaling 5,550 tons of furniture that would otherwise be tossed in a landfill. Where does all the furniture go? According to Executive Director Ron Osterbauer, *see photo above*, Bridging serves about 130



low-income families per week, all referred by local social service, nonprofit and church organizations.

"Each household receives an average of \$2,000 in furniture and household goods," Osterbauer said. "This is a one-time deal for people. We rely on our community partners' knowledge of the client and their situation to ensure they are eligible."

Bridging also relies heavily on its volunteers. One volunteer, Bloomington resident John Kleszcz, is a retired pilot. He's been working at Bridging for seven years.

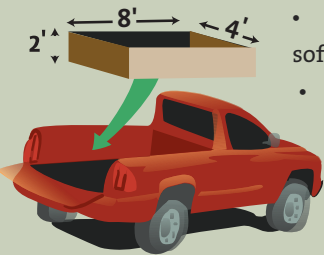
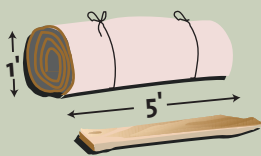
"I mostly do minor furniture repairs, but I'm also a woodcarver," Kleszcz said. "I guess I'm a handy guy, but I really just enjoy doing something that helps others."

Bridging only accepts donations of good quality items, although they will fix a loose screw or broken table leg if a piece of furniture is in good condition. For more information or to make a donation, call Bridging at 952-888-1105 or visit www.bridging.org.

ACCEPTED AT THE CURB

Please be considerate; haulers can not spend more than a few minutes at each house in order to complete the routes.

- General junk:** Boxed, bagged or bundled – under 100 pounds per item.
- Appliances:** Water heaters, microwaves, refrigerators, washers, dryers, stoves, air conditioners, dehumidifiers, freezers, etc. Limit TWO appliances per house. **No need to call ahead. NO electronics.**
- Carpets/pads:** Rolled and securely tied. Under five feet long and one foot in diameter – larger rolls are hard to handle.
- Larger scrap metal ONLY:** Office desks, clothesline poles and swing sets are examples. Remove wood, rubber, cement and all nonmetal materials, including gas from lawnmowers. NO cast iron tubs or items over 150 pounds. Take items that fit into an automobile to the Hennepin County Problem Waste Facility for recycling. *See box below.*



- Unusable furniture:** Disassemble hideaway sofa beds so they cannot open during handling.
- Mattresses/box springs.**
- Construction materials, lumber, windows and doors:** Pile limited to what fits in ONE level standard-size pickup truck. Lumber stacked and no longer than five feet. Bend nails.

NO railroad ties. NO contractor materials.

- BUNDLED brush:** Branches smaller than four inches in diameter and five feet in length. Includes buckthorn.

PREVENT ILLEGAL DUMPING AND PROTECT AIR QUALITY

Window air conditioners and dehumidifiers set out at the curb are targets for people who take copper wire from appliances to sell. It is illegal to cut the copper wire in appliances because it releases toxic pollutants, such as Freon, into the air. To help prevent illegal dumping and protect air quality, do not set out appliances that contain Freon until 7 a.m. on the day of your pickup. For more information, call Public Works at 952-563-8751.

OPTIONS FOR ITEMS NOT ACCEPTED AT THE CURB

HENNEPIN COUNTY PROBLEM WASTE AND RECYCLING FACILITY

1400 West 96th Street, 612-348-3777

| | |
|-----------|------------------|
| TU, TH, F | 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. |
| W | 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. |
| SA | 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. |

- Hazardous waste:** Paints, motor oil, solvents and other household chemicals.
- Tires and batteries.**
- Electronics:** TVs, VCRs, computers, monitors, stereos and cordless phones.
- Recyclable materials:** Plastic and glass bottles, cans and all paper.
- Gas-powered, refrigeration appliances:** Camper/other fridges, air conditioners – call ahead, 612-348-5832.
- Small scrap metal** that fits into a car trunk.
- Nonrefillable propane or butane cylinders.**



BURNSVILLE LANDFILL

952-890-3248

- Concrete, bricks.
- Porcelain: Tubs, sinks, toilets.
- Shingles.

NSP COMPOSTING

Burnsville, 952-736-1915

- Leaves, grass clippings, sod.
- Stumps, logs.

UNCLUTTER YOUR WORLD

SIMPLIFY LIFE WITH CITYWIDE GARAGE SALES

HERE ARE THREE SIMPLE WAYS to unclutter your home and clean up for spring: Set items out for the Curbside Cleanup, *see article left*; donate quality items to a local charity, *see article above*; or sell your unwanted treasures at the Citywide Garage Sales.

The Bloomington Optimist Youth Foundation, with the support of Human Services, will hold the 2009 Bloomington Citywide Garage Sales, **Thursday, May 28 - Saturday, May 30**. To advertise your garage sale on the official 2009 list, you will need to pay \$15; \$20 for a listing and yard sign.

Copies of the Citywide Garage Sales list are available for \$2 each through the Bloomington Optimist Youth Foundation. Lists will also be available on the City's website shortly before May 28. For more information, call the Bloomington Optimist Youth Foundation at 952-831-3798.

